

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00

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R 061100Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7531

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T SANA 0787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE, YS, SA

SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS WITH PDRY

REF: SANA 0780

1. PRIME MINISTER ASKED ME 2 MARCH WHETHER SAUDIS CLOSE TO AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH YEMENIS. HE SAID PDRY FORMIN MUTIH WAS HERE ABOUT WEEK AND A HALF AGO WITH MESSAGE THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH KINGDOM MIGHT SOON BE RE-ESTABLISHED BUT MUTIH LEFT IMPRESSION THAT SOME MATTERS REMAINED TO BE SETTLED. PM SAID HE THOUGH PROBLEM MIGHT BE SAUDI DEMAND TO HAVE CORRIDOR TO SEA SEPARATING DHOFAR AND PDRY. PM ALSO HAD STORY THAT SALIM RUBAYYA ALI HAD FLOWN TO SAUDI ARABIA DURING SADAT VISIT. PM SAID THEY HAD NO RPT NO WORD FROM SAUDIS, AND WONDERED WHAT "DEAL" MIGHT BE. CRUCIAL CONSIDERATION IN HIS MIND WAS WHETHER RAPPROACHMENT WOULD AFFECT INTERNAL PDRY REGIME AND ALLOW EXILES TO RETURN HOME. PM ALSO VERY INTERESTED IN WHAT SAUDIS EXPECT TO DO WITH PDRY "AS A SECOND STEP." IN PARTICULAR HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT IT WOULD MEAN FOR YAR.

2. GAVE NO RPT NO DETAILS BUT TOLD HIM I THOUGHT MATTER WAS CLOSE TO RESOLUTION. SAID CORRIDOR TO SEA (STORY WHICH SECRET

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ASNAG AND OTHERS HERE HAVE TOO) IS NOT RPT NOT TRUE, TO

BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. ALSO SAID I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT SALIM VISIT OUTSIDE ADEN.

3. QUESTION OF "SECOND STEP" AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR YAR, IS MORE INTERESTING. AHMED ABDO SAID SAID ON MARCH 2 THAT SAUDIS WANT TO TAKE AWAY YAR "LEFTIST" CARD, THREAT THAT RADICAL REGIME TO SOUTH REQUIRES SAUDI AID AND POLITICAL SUPPORT TO YARG AS MODERATE BUFFER. HE FEARS THAT SAUDI AID TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE DELIVERED AS PROMISED, AND SAUDIS WILL BE ABLE TO RESTORE SOME OF THEIR FORMER SUPPORT TO TRIBAL AND TRADITIONAL SAUDI ALLIES IN YAR. ABDAL AZIZ SEEMS TO FEEL, BY CONTRAST, THAT RADICALS IN SOUTH MIGHT GET A NEW LEASE ON LIFE AS RESULT OF INFUSION SAUDI AID, AND POSE EVEN GREATER POLITICAL THREAT TO YARG THROUGH QUASI RESPECTABILITY THAN THEY DID THROUGH OUTRIGHT SUBVERSION. IN BOTH CASES, THEY DON'T HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE FROM SAUDIS, AND, NOTWITHSTANDING THE SUPPORT OF BOTH FOR SAUDI EFFORTS TO CRACK PDRY, THEY BOTH WONDER IF SAUDIS WON'T SOMEHOW TRY TO PLAY THE TWO YEMENS OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER.

COMMENT: REFTTEL, WHICH SUGGEST INSIDE INFORMATION SAUD AND ABDEL AZIZ DIDN'T HAVE, COULD REFLECT DISCUSSIONS OF YARG OFFICIALS IN CAIRO DURING HAMDI VISIT.

RANSOM

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NNN

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